

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
HARLAN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2011 UNMINED COAL TAXES**

**For The Period
July 17, 2011 Through July 16, 2012**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE HARLAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2011 UNMINED COAL TAXES

**For The Period
July 17, 2011 Through July 16, 2012**

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the audit of the Sheriff's Settlement - 2011 Unmined Coal Taxes for the Harlan County Sheriff for the period July 17, 2011 through July 16, 2012. We have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

Financial Condition:

The Sheriff collected taxes of \$2,882,614 for the districts for 2011 unmined coal taxes, retaining commissions of \$119,716 to operate the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff distributed taxes of \$2,762,898 to the districts for 2011 unmined coal taxes.

Deposits:

The Sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities.

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ADAM H. EDELEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky

Honorable Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Lori H. Flanery, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

Honorable Joseph A. Grieshop, Harlan County Judge/Executive

Honorable Marvin Lipfird, Harlan County Sheriff

Members of the Harlan County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the Harlan County Sheriff's Settlement - 2011 Unmined Coal Taxes for the period July 17, 2011 through July 16, 2012. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the Harlan County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement in accordance with the modified cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Harlan County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period July 17, 2011 through July 16, 2012, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated January 23, 2013 on our consideration of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to



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Members of the Harlan County Fiscal Court

provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam H. Edelen', with a stylized, flowing script.

Adam H. Edelen
Auditor of Public Accounts

January 23, 2013

HARLAN COUNTY
MARVIN LIPFIRD, SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2011 UNMINED COAL TAXES

For The Period July 17, 2011 Through July 16, 2012

<u>Charges</u>	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Special Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Unmined Coal - 2011 Taxes	\$ 916,941	\$ 536,817	\$ 1,146,174	\$ 354,009
Penalties	8,512	4,983	10,641	3,286
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	925,453	541,800	1,156,815	357,295
<u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	145	85	181	56
Discounts	15,854	9,270	19,827	6,119
Delinquents: Real Estate	14,571	8,530	18,486	5,625
Total Credits	30,570	17,885	38,494	11,800
Taxes Collected	894,883	523,915	1,118,321	345,495
Less: Commissions *	38,033	22,266	44,733	14,684
Taxes Due	856,850	501,649	1,073,588	330,811
Taxes Paid	856,850	501,649	1,073,588	330,811
Due Districts as of Completion of Audit	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

* Commissions:

4.25% on \$ 1,764,293

4% on \$ 1,118,321

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

HARLAN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 16, 2012

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The Harlan County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

HARLAN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
July 16, 2012
(Continued)

Note 2. Deposits (Continued)

Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the Sheriff's deposits may not be returned. The Harlan County Sheriff does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). As of July 16, 2012, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

Unmined Coal Taxes

The tangible property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2011. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was February 9, 2012 through July 16, 2012.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Harlan County Sheriff earned \$106 as interest income on 2011 unmined coal taxes. The Sheriff distributed the appropriate amount to the school district as required by statute, and the remainder was used to operate the Sheriff's office.

Note 5. Sheriff's 10% Add-On Fee

The Harlan County Sheriff collected \$27,570 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.119(7). This amount was used to operate the Sheriff's office.

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



ADAM H. EDELEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Joseph A. Grieshop, Harlan County Judge/Executive
Honorable Marvin Lipfird, Harlan County Sheriff
Members of the Harlan County Fiscal Court

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the Harlan County Sheriff's Settlement - 2011 Unmined Coal Taxes for the period July 17, 2011 through July 16, 2012, and have issued our report thereon dated January 23, 2013. The Sheriff prepares his financial statement in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management of the Harlan County Sheriff's office is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Harlan County Sheriff's Settlement - 2011 Unmined Coal Taxes for the period July 17, 2011 through July 16, 2012, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Harlan County Fiscal Court, and the Department for Local Government and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Adam H. Edelen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam H. Edelen
Auditor of Public Accounts

January 23, 2013

